

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00

XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

INT-05 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /116 W

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R 301450Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4582

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 2215

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EMIN, MR

SUBJ: MAURITANIAN IRON ORE EXPORTS

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1953 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL REPORTED THAT MAURITANIAN IRON ORE EXPORTS DROPPED SHARPLY AFTER MID-YEAR DUE TO WORLD ECONOMIC DOWNTURN. DURING RECENT TRIP TO NOUADHIBOU, WHERE IRON ORE IS LOADED INTO SHIPS, EMB. OFF. WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN STATUS REPORT ON SITUATION.

2. FROM JANUARY 1, 1975 THROUGH JULY 31, 1975, COMINOR, THE IRON ORE COMPLEX, EXPORTED 5,874,282 METRIC TONS OF ORE. AUGUST EXPORTS TOTALED 587.415 METRIC TONS
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WHILE SEPTEMBER EXPORTS FELL TO 353,245 METRIC TONS.

THUS, TOTAL EXPORTS THROUGH SEPTEMBER WERE 6,814,942. ACCORDING TO SENIOR COMINOR OFFICIAL, OCTOBER EXPORTS WILL BE BETTER THAN SEPTEMBER AGURE AND TREND SHOULD BE UPWARDS THROUGH END OF YEAR. OFFICIAL SAID COMINOR STILL HOPES TO HAVE 9,000,000 METRIC TON YEAR. (1974) EXPORTS TOTALED 10,300,000 METRIC TONS). TO REACH 9 MILLION TON YEAR, HOWEVER, WILL REQUIRE EXPORTS DURING OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, AND DECEMBER AVERAGING MORE THAN 700,000 TONS. (IN VIEW OF CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION, THIS IS PROBABLY NOT REALISTIC GOAL. DURING VISIT TO COMINOR LOADING SITE, ONE SHIP WAS BEING LOADED WITH ORE BUT NONE WERE STANDING BY.)

3. AS RESULT OF DECREASED IRON ORE EXPORTS, ORE STOCK IN NOUADHIBOU HAS INCREASED. NORMALLY, RESERVS TOTAL BETWEEN 1 AND 1.5 MILLION METRIC TONS DURING LATE OCTOBER, RESERVES HAD REACHED 2 MILLION METRIC TONS.

COMMENT: AT BEGINNING OF YEAR, COMINOR PREDICTED CY 1975 EXPORTS WOULD REACH 11.4 MILLION TONS. EVEN IF COMINOR IS ABLE TO ATTAIN GOAL OF 9 MILLION TONS, FALL OFF IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL FOR COUNTRY WHICH TRADITIONALLY EARNS ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF ITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE THROUGH IRON ORE EXPORTS.HANDYSIDE

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